

## **IOWA JUVENILE HOME PROTECTION TASK FORCE “Task Force”**

### **MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18, 2013**

#### **TASK FORCE**

Jerry R. Foxhoven, Task Force Chair, Executive Director, Drake Legal Clinic  
Charles M. Palmer, Director, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Dr. Mark R. Peltan, Director, Behavioral Services, Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa  
Ron Stehl, MSW/LISW, Consultant  
Dr. Mary Stevens, Director of Special Education, Area Education Agency 267

#### **STAFF**

Eric DeTemmerman, Executive Officer 2, DHS, Mental Health and Disability Services Division, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Jen Harbison, Executive Officer 3-Policy Advisor, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Amy McCoy, Public Information Officer, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Rick Shults, Mental Health and Disability Services Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Human Services

#### **GUESTS**

Brittany Bell, ICADV/ Student  
Michael Bousselot, Office of the Governor  
Linda Brundies, Office of Ombudsman  
Tess Cody, ICADV/ Task Force for Young Women  
Karen Connell, Iowa Juvenile Home  
Alex Drzycimski, AFSCME  
Dean Fisher, House of Representatives  
Jim Friberg, Inspection and Appeals  
Zeke Furlong, Iowa Legislature  
Dave Heaton, State Representative  
Jane Hudson, Disability Rights IOWA  
Sandi Hurtado-Peters, Department of Management  
Mike Husak, Piney Ridge Center  
Don Jordan, Jordan Consulting, LLC

**Guests** (Continued)

Clark Kauffman, Des Moines Register  
Nathan Kirstein, Disability Rights IOWA  
Gretchen Kraemer, Attorney General's Office  
Latrice Lacey, ACLU of Iowa  
Sue Lerdal, In Lieu of Urbandale  
Carrie Malone, House Republican Staff  
Steve Michael, Department of Human Rights  
Morgan Miller, AFSCME  
Estelle Montgomery, Legislative Services Agency  
Kristie Oliver, Coalition for Family and Children's Services  
Amber Opdahl, Former IJH student  
John Pollak, Legislative Services Agency  
Todd Rickert, County Social Services  
Beth Rydberg, Disability Rights IOWA  
John Speer, Toledo Chronicle  
Aaron Todd, Senate Democrats  
Beverly Zylstra, Inspections and Appeals

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Jerry Foxhoven, Chair, called the Task Force meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at the Iowa Juvenile Home (IJH), training room. Mr. Foxhoven welcomed the Task Force members and meeting guests. Mr. Foxhoven referred to Gretchen Kraemer of the Attorney General's Office for an explanation of why she had requested the Chair to make changes to the meeting agenda. Ms. Kraemer requested changes to the meeting agenda to balance the requirements of open meeting requirements and student confidentiality concerns relating to the tour to take place later in the day.

## **ROLL CALL**

All Task Force members were present.

## **TASK FORCE PURPOSE, EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER EIGHTY-TWO**

Michael Boussetot, from the Office of the Governor, provided opening statements. Mr. Boussetot began by emphasizing how critically important the mission of the Iowa Juvenile Home (IJH) and Task Force is. Mr. Boussetot said the Task Force has the full commitment from the Governor. He stated that the safety, treatment, and education should be at the forefront of the Task Force. He concluded by thanking the members of the Task Force for their service and time.

Task Force Chair, Mr. Foxhoven, followed Mr. Boussetot's opening by stating that the Task Force recommendations need to be in the best interest of the kids at IJH and stated that the agenda of the Task Force will be open and transparent.

## **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Foxhoven pointed out that there will be three Task Force meetings in September and a fourth meeting in October to develop recommendations that will go to the Governor on October 15, 2013. The date of the October meeting will be set at a later time.

## **OVERVIEW OF IOWA JUVENILE HOME**

Interim Superintendent, Mark Day, presented an overview of the Iowa Juvenile Home. Mr. Day covered the following:

- Applicable regulations of IJH
- Basic information including the budget of IJH (\$10,309,502), total number of children IJH can serve (57), and staffing levels (114 FTEE, 10 current openings).
- Buildings and infrastructure (142,000 square feet of space covering 27 acres).
- Youth profile including number of boys and girls, average ages, number of previous placements, and number of CINA and delinquent students.
- Stated that IJH students on average had 6-10 previously failed placements before entering IJH.
- Discussed youth placement indicating only 24 percent of IJH students are discharged to a parental home, which is much less than students at Eldora stating that the IJH students many times have nowhere to go when discharged.

## **FORMER STUDENT**

A former IJH student presented in front of the Task Force and guests at this point. Prior to the meeting the former student asked to speak at the meeting and because her circumstances did not allow her to present during the public comment portion of the meeting she was allowed to speak at this time.

## **TOUR OF IOWA JUVENILE HOME**

At 10:45 the Task Force and guests toured the Iowa Juvenile Home. The tour consisted of visiting Palmer Cottage, the school, and support unit. The tour was led by Mr. Day.

## **SECLUSION USE, POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

Mr. Day presented on seclusion use, policy and procedure at IJH. Mr. Day covered the following:

- Defined seclusion as the involuntary confinement of a youth alone in a room or an area from which the youth is physically prevented from leaving.
- Defined restraint as the direct physical contact required on the part of a staff member to prevent a child from hurting self, others or property.
- Identified changes in the seclusion and restraint policy at IJH in response to Executive Order Number Eighty-Two.
- Identified changes to the Support Unit which include: the doors to four seclusion rooms being removed, the Support Unit front door is unlocked

except if a youth in the unit requires that level of security, and there is no minimum length of stay in the Support Unit.

- Identified next steps as the following: to assist in the identification and utilization of coping strategies as alternatives to voluntary seclusion, to continue training staff on how to de-escalate youth in crisis, and tracking the use of seclusion for individuals with high usage.
- Data was presented showing seclusion and restraint use decreasing.

## **STAFF TRAINING**

Mr. Day spoke to staff training provided at IJH. Mr. Day covered the following:

- Between July 31, 2013 and September 18, 2013, all staff received real time face to face training on how to de-escalate youth.
- All staff was trained on the Handle with Care intervention system.
- Trauma Informed Care training has been arranged and all staff will be trained.
- The use of the hands-on application of Science of Human Behavior will continue.

## **EDUCATION AT THE IOWA JUVENILE HOME**

Mr. Day spoke to education services provided at IJH. Mr. Day covered the following:

- IJH operates a full-time school with a projected SFY14 education budget of \$1,131,699 with 10 certified teachers and a principal.
- 61 percent of the students are in special education.
- Identified two areas of education as General Education and Special Education.
- Several steps have been taken to improve education services at IJH including reducing class size from 10 to 7, review of all Individual Education Plans (IEP), and collaboration with AEA (Area Education Agency 267).

## **IOWA JUVENILE HOME SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM**

Mr. Day presented on the substance abuse program at IJH. Mr. Day covered the following:

- There was an IJH licensure inspection conducted by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) on July 29, 2013.
- Fifteen areas of non-compliance were found during this review.

- Areas identified as out of compliance were being corrected.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Foxhoven concluded the Task Force agenda items by re-emphasizing the mission of the task force referencing Executive Order 82. Mr. Foxhoven talked about the issues that the Task Force would discuss at the upcoming meetings, including whether or not IJH was serving the right kids and whether the current mix of kids makes sense for IJH. The Task Force also discussed bringing in different individuals and organizations at the next meeting to speak to the prior placements of IJH students.

Mr. Stehl posted the question of how the Task Force should incorporate the recommendations of organizations such as Disability Rights IOWA, IDPH, and the Iowa Department of Education. Director Palmer responded by saying that the Task Force should incorporate the results and recommendations of the outside reviews and organizations into the Task Force's analysis and recommendations.

Mr. Foxhoven then opened up the meeting for public comment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kristie Oliver, Coalition for Family and Children's Services, volunteered to assist the Task Force with finding resources that could provide information and education for the Task Force.

Tess Cody, ICADV/ Task Force for Young Women, identified the Task Force for Young Women as a valuable resource of information for the Task Force. Ms. Cody also referenced a prior task force at IJH indicating that the task force did not follow-thru with the recommendations made by the task force.

Representative Heaton spoke to the comments made by Mr. Cody regarding the prior task force stating that it was not the case that the task force did not follow-thru with the previous task force recommendations but more so that they could not find providers that would take the IJH kids. Representative Heaton also discussed the issue of how IJH is to deal with children with both behavioral and mental health issues within the same facility.

Steve Michael, Department of Human Rights, confirmed that the Department of Human Rights has a lot of data by race, sex, age, etc. and are willing to provide to the Task Force if the Task Force would like.

Mike Husak, Piney Ridge Center, stated that the types of kids that are referred and admitted to IJH are physically aggressive and tough for a facility to handle.

He also encouraged the task force to look at other types of kids with conditions such as autism and Asperger Syndrome.

Dr. Peltan concluded the public comment section by thanking Mr. Day for his presentations and work at IJH.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Iowa Juvenile Home Task Force will be Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at River Place, 2309 Euclid Avenue, in Des Moines.

## **ADJOURN**

The Task Force adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Eric W. DeTemmerman, DHS

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